

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 479 – SB 500

January 20, 2012

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (007885): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires the subscribers of a water utility district located in the eastern portion of White County, Tennessee to fill vacancies and select commissioners by election. Specifies that any person serving as commissioner or voting in an election for commissioner must be a customer of, and reside in, the district. Limits voters to one vote per customer regardless of the number of meters attributable to a customer. Directs that the election be held in a local school, fire hall, or utility office within the district on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sets rules and restrictions for the polling place. Requires the incumbent commissioners to give notice of the election to all district customers by mail and by publication in a local newspaper of general circulation. Details the information required in the notice and the deadlines for publication. Establishes guidelines for winner declaration, tie-breaking, and insufficient voter turnout.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase Local Expenditures - \$500

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- This bill affects one water district located in eastern White County, Tennessee.
- The elections will be held at a local school, fire hall, or utility district office that does not charge a fee for use of the facility.
- According to this water district office in White County, the water bills are mailed on pre-printed postcards. The notice of an election cannot be included on the water bill.
- The water district serves at least one thousand (1,000) subscribers. Notice will be mailed to each subscriber on a postcard size mailing at a cost of \$0.32 (rate beginning January 22, 2012) per notice for a total mailing cost of \$320 (1,000 subscribers x \$0.32).
- The notice will be published once in a local newspaper of general circulation at least 30 days prior to the election. According to *The Expositor* in Sparta, Tennessee, the cost of a one run classified line ad (approximately 15 lines) is \$26.60 (first nine lines = \$20.00 with each additional line at \$1.10 each).

HB 479 – SB 500

- The required publication of the ballot will be run as a 3 x 5 display ad and will run one time not less than five days nor more than fourteen days prior to the election. According to *The Expositor*, the cost of a 3 x 5 display ad is \$127.50.
- One election will be held to fill an unscheduled vacancy.
- The total increase in local expenditures will be \$474.10 (\$320 + \$26.60 + \$127.50).

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jtl